



## EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

March 27, 2000

*Stauffer Chemical Company Site*

*Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida*

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) to provide notice of a modification to the cleanup decision document for the Stauffer Chemical Company/Tarpon Springs **Superfund** Site. EPA signed the **Record of Decision (ROD)** in July 1998 selecting the remedy for Operable Unit #1 (OU1), which addresses the soils at the Stauffer facility. This ESD modifies the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic in soils. The modification does not fundamentally change the selected remedy. The remedy remains fully protective of human health and the environment.

EPA is issuing this ESD as a fact sheet in accordance with Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (**CERCLA**), as amended. CERCLA is known as the **Superfund** law, and the NCP contains the regulations setting forth how EPA will carry out its responsibilities under Superfund. Terms in **bold** are defined in a glossary on page 3.

This ESD will become part of the **Administrative Record** for the cleanup decision for the Stauffer Chemical Company Superfund Site. The record is available for review at the **Information Repository** located at:

*Tarpon Springs Public Library  
138 East Lemon Street  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
(727) 943-4922*

### Background

The Stauffer Chemical Company Tarpon Springs Superfund site (site) is located on Anclote Road in

Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. This former elemental phosphorus plant is located on Anclote Road near the Pinellas/Pasco County border, and lies along the Anclote River two miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. The town of Tarpon Springs is located approximately 2 miles southeast of the site. The site comprises an area of approximately 130 acres and includes the former phosphate processing area, elemental phosphorous production facilities, and office/administrative buildings. While operating, the plant used a system of seventeen unlined waste ponds on the site. Land use in the surrounding area includes light industrial, commercial, and residential. There are undeveloped areas near the site. The site is generally flat with an average elevation of 10 feet above sea level.

EPA placed the site on the **National Priorities List (NPL)** in 1994. In February 1992, the Stauffer Management Company (SMC) voluntarily entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the EPA. Under the AOC, Stauffer completed a detailed study (Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study or RI/FS) in 1996, under EPA direction. This study evaluated the contamination at the site, determined the potential risks posed by the contaminations, and identified and evaluated methods for remediating the contamination. EPA selected a remedy to address the site soils in the July 1998 ROD.

### SCOPE OF ESD

The ROD calls for consolidation of contaminated soils and sediments at the site under operable unit (OU) number 1. This ESD modifies the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic in soils at the site.

## Selected Remedy for OU1

The major components of the soil operable unit include:

- ! Limited excavation of radiologically and chemically contaminated material/soil which exceed Residential Cleanup Standards.
- ! Consolidation of contaminated material/soils in the main pond area, slag area, and/or other areas on-site.
- ! Placement of institutional controls on the site to include deed restrictions, land use ordinances, physical barriers, and water supply well permitting restrictions.
- ! In-situ Solidification/Stabilization of pond material and contaminated soil below the water table in the consolidation areas.

### Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)

The July 1998 ROD identified arsenic as a contaminant of concern, but was not clear on the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic. In June 1999 EPA issued an ESD clarifying that the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic is 21.1 mg/kg. In August 1999 EPA issued a second ESD for the following reasons: 1) Raised the cleanup standard for beryllium in soils from 0.192 mg/kg to 120 mg/kg. 2) Updated the citation of the Florida Administrative Code regarding performance standards for caps to be placed over the consolidation areas. 3) Changed the performance criteria for the binding mixture to be used in the solidification/stabilization process from 100 lbs per square inch (psi) to 50 psi and 4) Clarified the scope of a petroleum products contamination assessment to be performed in coordination with the State of Florida.

EPA and the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) at the site, Atkemix Thirty-Seven, Inc. and Aventis CropScience USA Inc. (formerly Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company Inc.), have negotiated a consent decree for the performance of the remedy

at the Site. The consent decree was lodged with the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida on November 23, 1999.

Due to the concerns expressed by members of the public and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection over the cleanup goal for arsenic, the PRPs have voluntarily committed to achieve at the site a cleanup goal for arsenic of 3.7 mg/kg. As a result of the PRPs' willingness to achieve this goal and because the scope of this remedy will not be significantly altered, EPA hereby selects 3.7 mg/kg as the cleanup goal for arsenic in soils at the site. This selection of 3.7 mg/kg as the cleanup goal for arsenic at this site is not a precedent for other sites.

This cleanup goal for arsenic shall be a "Performance Standard" under the terms of the consent decree between EPA and the PRPs and, therefore, will become an enforceable cleanup goal upon entry of the consent decree with the District Court. EPA has not selected this cleanup goal for arsenic as a result of any federal or state applicable or relevant and appropriate requirement. EPA, however, acknowledges that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection does consider the 3.7 mg/kg cleanup number for arsenic as a state applicable or relevant and appropriate requirement.

### Statutory Determination

The selected remedy as clarified by this ESD for the Stauffer Chemical Company **Superfund Site ROD** for OU1 remains protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action, and is cost-effective.



## Glossary

**Administrative Record:** Documents providing the basis for EPA's selection of a cleanup remedy at a **Superfund** site, placed in the **Information Repository** near a site for public review.

**CERCLA or Superfund:** The federal law which establishes and authorizes EPA to respond to abandoned or unregulated releases of hazardous waste.

**Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel.

**Information Repository:** Documents located near a **Superfund** site for public review.

**National Priorities List (NPL):** EPA's list of priority hazardous

waste sites that are eligible to receive federal money for response under **Superfund**.

**PRP:** Potentially Responsible Party - a company or individual who owned or operated a hazardous waste site or has transported or disposed waste to the site.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** Document explaining EPA's rationale for selection of a cleanup remedy at a **Superfund** site.

**Superfund:** Common name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) established to address uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites.



## EPA CONTACTS

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*61 Forsyth Street, SW*

*Atlanta, Georgia 30303*

*1-800-435-9234*



### MAILING LIST ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

If you would like your name and address placed on the mailing list for the Stauffer Chemical Company Superfund Site, please complete this form and return to Angela Leach, EPA, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION (If any): \_\_\_\_\_

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United States  
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61 Forsyth St, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

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Angela Leach, Community Relations

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